

# By the Queene.

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A Proclamation made agaynst seditious and trayterous Bookes,  
Billes, and VVritinges.



**T**HE Queenes Maiestie being of late certainly informed of the trayterous boldnes of certen wicked and seditious persons, that enuyng and malicing the good vniuersall quiet of this her Realme and subiectes, do by secrete manner contriue and scatter certaine infamous scrolles and billes in some partes of her Realme, and into some other partes bring in trayterous bookes and Bulles, as it were from Rome, therby with vntruthes and falsehodes, yea with diuers monstrous absurdities to the slander of the Nobilitie and Counsell of the Realme, and not sparyng also in the same to vtter hygh Treasons agaynst the estate and Royall dignitie of her Maiestie, to ingender in the heades of the simple ignorant multitude, a misghyng or murmuring agaynst the quiet gouernement of the Realme, and namely in malicious depauring of such actions as are and haue ben by good counsell prouidently deuised, necessarily attempted, and wel atcheued by her Maiesties order, for defence not only of her Maiestie, but of the very whole body and people of the Realme from the open furie of Rebelles, and intended intiactions by outwarde enemies: Hath hereupon thought good and necessary to warne al her good faithfull subiectes, that if any such trayterous or lewde and slanderous billes or bookes, in wryting or in print, shall any wyse come to the handes of any person that can or may by readyng of any part of the same, finde the same to be of suche lewde qualities agaynst her Maiestie, or the Nobilitie of the Realme, or any of her Counsell, or tending to the slander of any other publike estate and officer: that immediatly without shewing or report or speeche therof to any person, he shall bring and deliuer it to the handes of the Lieutenaut of the same Shire, or to his Deputie. Or if in case the same Lieutenaut or his Deputie shall be so farre of, as the finder for pouertie or other necessary impediment cannot speedily resort to them therewith: Then the sayde fynder shall without making any other priuie thereto, bring it to the next Iustice of peace, or head Officer that can reade: who being informed therof, shall examine the fynder of the maner and other circumstances, to his discretion necessary, howe the same was founde: And therupon shall seale it by close, with the examination of the fynder, if any person be thereby chargeable, and shall sende it immediatly to her Maiestie, and her Counsell, without geuyng knowledge of the contentes thereof to any other maner person: And shall also vpon the examination of the fynder, do his vttermoost by his owne aucthoritie, or by aduertising to any other hauyng aucthoritie in the same Shire or libertie, or other wyse, to cause to be apprehended all the persons charged or suspected as aucthours, or any wyse participantes of the sayd slanderous and seditious billes, bookes, or scrolles, to the intent the same persons so charged or suspected may be further tryed and ordered, with such seueritie as their desertes shall require.

And furthermore, if any maner of wryting or scrolles shall happen in any suspicious maner to come to the handes of any person, the same being not able by readyng to discerne what the same is, nor knowyng who the person is by whom he shall attayne to it: The sayde person so being ignorant of readyng, shall forthwith shewe the same to some honest discrete Officer, nearest to the place, that can reade it. Who fyndyng it to be any wyse seditious or slanderous, shall forthwith cary it and the bringer also, and deliuer them both in lyke maner to the Lieutenaut of the Shire, or other Officer, in lyke maner as if he had ben the first fynder therof hym selfe.

And if any person can by any meanes discover who are the aucthours or wryters, counsellors, or contrayers of any such trayterous or slanderous billes, bookes, or wrytinges, that already hath ben or shall be hereafter dispersed: the same so doyng in such sort as it may come to the knowledge of her Maiestie, or her Counsell, shall be so largely rewarded, as duryng his or their lyues they shall haue iust cause to thinke them selues well vsed. And if he haue ben any wyse a partener in the same fault, and yet wyl discover the principal aucthours or offenders therein: he shall not onely be sauourably pardoned for his concealement or offence, but shall also be so well rewarded, as he shall neuer haue cause to repent of his discoverie. And if cause shall so require, both such discoverers shall be preserved from the note of blame of accusing, as farre forth as may be



And contrarywise, if any person after the publication hereof, shall be proued to haue found or ben made priuie to any suche slanderous Bookes, or writings, and not to haue bled them as afore is prescribed: Or that any person, other then suche Officers as are in maner afore expresse and appoynted to receaue suche scrolles of the synders, shall be made priuie thereto by the synders, or by any other person, and shall not disclose their knowledge in maner aboue expresse, as if they had ben the syll synders: Her Maiestie willeth it to be vnderstand, that all suche persons so concealing the same, shall vpon prooue therof, be attached and committed closely to the next Gaole, as concealers and maynteyners of sedition and tumultes, and shall not be bayled nor deliuered, without expresse commaundement or knowledge of the Lieutenantes of the Shires, or the Queenes Maiestie, or her priuie Counsell.

And for the suppressing of these kindes of seedes of Treason and Sedition: Her Maiestie chargeth all her Lieutenantes and Officers, to whom the execution hereof may any wise appertayne, to be ready, carefull, and diligent to the apprehending of these kinde of wicked sowers of sedition, and to the straight examination of all persons that may be any wise suspected by their disordred liues or speeches, or by any other probable meanes, to be parteners hereto, or otherwise sowers of seditious Tales, with suche seueritie as the same requireth: For so is it seene very necessary at this time, wherein appeareth a malicious, hidden, and cankered purpose of some wyched number of lewde people, that haue an inward and greedy desyre to styre by tumultes and bypries, and violently to burst a sunder the bandes of the publike peace whiche the Realme enioyeth, whereby they and theyr like confederates might make spoyle and hauocke of all the good Subiectes of the Realme, and as Traytours make their gayne by conspiring and confederating with foreyn enemies, to the hazard, or at the least to the great charges of the Realme, to be necessarily susteyned for defence of the same, agaynst suche attemptes, eyther at home, or from abroad.

Given at her Maiesties manor of Otelande the fyrst day of July. 1570. in the twelfth yere of her Maiesties raigne.

*God saue the Queene.*

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